

**From:** Saul and Sharai  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 12/7/01 1:38pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to register my distaste for the Microsoft settlement.

I admit that I am no fan of Microsoft but it seems that even those who are completely unbiased should be shocked by what the settlement will (and will not) accomplish. Microsoft was found guilty. No one can dispute that fact. Instead of being punished, though, they are being rewarded by being forced to install their software into schools, thus ensuring that future generations will grow up knowing (and buying) only their products.

Another issue surrounding the settlement I find distasteful is the reference by the judge to the September 11 attack. The implication was that a light sentence was rushed through in order to help get the country's economy back on track. The message, then, is that it's okay to break the law if your company is big enough to have a noticeable effect on the US economy.

I have been in the software industry for over fifteen years and I have seen the negative effect that Microsoft's monopolistic practices have had on companies that have tried to compete (and many that haven't even been competitors).

I would not be surprised if the Microsoft executives and lawyers are laughing at what they could get away with. They may be ruthless and monopolistic, but they are not stupid. They will take this settlement as a sign that the Department of Justice is unwilling to stand in their way because their illegal practices provide jobs and taxes. Is this the position of the government and the Department of Justice?

Sincerely,

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